



**DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS AIR FORCE PERSONNEL CENTER
RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE TEXAS**

MEMORANDUM FOR ALL MPSs

16 Apr 2010
PSDM 10-28

FROM: AFPC/DPA
550 C Street West, Suite 28
Randolph AFB TX 78150-4730

SUBJECT: 2 – 6 August 2010 USAF Test Pilot School (TPS) Selection Board Announcement

(APPLICATION SUSPENSE: 3 JUNE 2010)

You are reminded to review AFI 33-332, Privacy Act Program, Chapter 7, paragraph 7.3, sending personal information over electronic mail; paragraph 10.2.2, using Privacy Act Labels, and Chapter 12, disclosing records to third parties. Also review DOD 5400.7-R/AF Sup, DOD Freedom of Information Act Program, Chapter 4, For Official Use Only and paragraph C4.2.1. location of markings. Please ensure you take appropriate action to protect any Privacy Act or personal identifying information prior to forwarding your application to Headquarters, Air Force Personnel Center.

1. AFPC will convene the next annual United States Air Force Test Pilot School Selection Board on 2 – 6 Aug 10 to fill July 2011 and January 2012 classes. The board will fill requirements in the following categories:

- Fighter, multi-engine, helicopter and Remotely Piloted Aircraft Pilots (RPA-P)
- Combat Systems Officer (CSO) which includes navigators, electronic warfare officers, and weapons system operators
- Military and civilian engineers

AFI 99-107, Test Pilot School, contains application procedures, eligibility criteria, and guidance for submitting waivers to eligibility requirements.

1a. Air National Guard (ANG) and Air Force Reserve Command (AFRC) applicants will be on a 4 year Active Guard/Reserve (AGR) Title 10 active duty tour when they are identified as TPS selects upon the class start date.

2. MAJCOM/A3s are highly encouraged to support qualified members who are applying to meet this year's TPS selection board. USAF TPS is the world's preeminent fixed-wing test pilot school providing the finest flight test professionals to develop and evaluate current and future weapon systems. Graduates have profound influence on the designs of future combat capabilities and ensure mission suitability for use in the field. TPS graduates are in high demand in an era of increasing technological advancements on the battle field.

3. Members who currently have an application on file must update their application as specified in AFI 99-107. All applications, new or updated, must arrive no later than 3 Jun 10 at HQ AFPC/DPAOT3, 550 C Street West, Suite 31, Randolph AFB TX 78150-4733.

4. Flight Test Engineer (FTE) applicants military and civilian, must comply with AFI 99-107, paragraph 3.1.5 by completing a flying class III physical that is certified by Headquarters Air Force Material Command (AFMC) Surgeon General Aerospace Medicine (SGPA). The certified physical, must be included with the application. Engineer applications received without a certified and qualified flying class III physical will be returned. FTE applicants requiring aeromedical waivers for conditions that fail to meet flying class III standards must have their waivers electronically submitted in the Aeromedical Information Management Waiver Tracking System (AIMWTS) by their base flight surgeon office to HQ AFMC/SGPA for certification prior to the board.

5. FOR IM/SC: You are authorized to publish the following proposed article immediately upon receipt through 3 Jun 10. "The next annual United States Air Force Test Pilot School (TPS) selection board will convene 2 – 6 August 2010 at the Air Force Personnel Center (AFPC). The USAF Test Pilot School is the world's preeminent fixed-wing test pilot school. TPS graduates are in high demand in an era of increasing technological advancements on the battlefield. Graduates have a profound influence on the designs of future combat capabilities and ensure mission suitability for use in the field. TPS trains pilots, navigators, and engineers to develop, test and evaluate the newest aircraft and weapons systems. The manned pilot selects will fill positions in the fighter, multi-engine and helicopter categories. All others selects will fill positions in the fighter, multi-engine, and remotely piloted aircraft-pilot categories. Graduates of USAF TPS will be awarded a Master of Science degree in Flight Test Engineering by Air University, which is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. In addition, USAF TPS conducts exchange programs with the U.S. Navy, United Kingdom, and French Test Pilot schools to train fixed and rotary wing pilots and flight test engineers. Rotary wing pilots and engineers will be assigned to conduct testing on the latest rotary wing systems to include CV-22 and special operations assets. Applicants from all aircraft types and backgrounds must have strong academic and technical experience and a desire to help develop the next generation of Air Force weapons and weapons systems. For more information, visit the TPS web site <https://www.edwards.af.mil/library/factsheets/factsheet.asp?id=6467>."

6. Air Force officers and civilians eligible for TPS may volunteer for a joint AFIT and TPS program leading to an additional Master of Science (MS) in Aeronautical Engineering or Electrical Engineering. If selected, they will enter AFIT for a special program followed by entering the regular U.S. Air Force TPS curriculum 15 months later. AFIT graduate courses stress aircraft and systems analysis, design, and development. At TPS, students will conduct a test management project using test aircraft, systems, and support facilities to gather essential flight test data for a thesis.

7. AFI 99-107 is currently under revision and the following subparagraphs are provided and supersede the 23 Sep 02 version pending publication and except where noted.

A. A new remotely piloted aircraft pilot (RPA-P) curriculum has been added as part of the Combat Systems Officer (CSO) classification. The three TPS curricula are now experimental test pilot, experimental test CSO/RPA-P, and experimental flight test engineer. Note that the term CSO includes rated navigators, electronic warfare officers, and weapon system operators. Except where specifically noted in this message, RPA-P who do not meet the qualifications for

the experimental test pilot curricula should follow the entry requirements and application procedures for test navigators in the current AFI 99-107.

B. Experimental test pilot applicants must have a Total Active Federal Commissioned Service (TAFCS) of fewer than 9 years and 6 months (10 years and 3 months for helicopter pilots). Pilots must be on extended active duty (EAD) and not in suspended flying status. At class entry, pilots must have served at least 12 months as aircraft commander in a manned major weapon system. Pilots must also be qualified instructor pilots (minimum 50 hours instructor time) in a major weapon system or have at least 750 hours total time (150 hours may be RPA-P time). See Table 1 in the current AFI 99-107 for education, physical, and clearance requirements.

C. Experimental test CSO/RPA-P applicants must have a TAFCS of fewer than 9 years and 6 months. CSOs must be qualified instructor CSOs in a major weapon system (minimum 50 hours instructor time) or have at least 500 hours total time in a major weapon system. (Total time excludes student time and unmanned aerial system time). RPA-P must be qualified instructors (minimum 50 hours instructor time) or have at least 500 hours total time. See Table 1 in the current AFI 99-107 for education, physical, and clearance requirements.

D. TAFCS entry requirements for flight test engineers remain unchanged. See the current AFI 99-107 for details.

E. The minimum Grade Point Average (GPA) for all applicants has been changed to 3.0 on a 4.0 scale. Applicants with an undergraduate GPA lower than 3.0 must obtain a waiver to be eligible, regardless of graduate GPA.

F. Academic degree requirements have been clarified. A Bachelor of Science (BS) degree in engineering, mathematics, physics, or a physical science degree must specifically state "engineering", "mathematics", "physics", or a "physical science". Other titles such as "aircraft engineering technology", "aerospace science", "aerospace or space operations" or any other title using the words "technology" or "aircraft" are not acceptable. A Bachelor of Arts (BA) degree in mathematics or physical science does not qualify. Acceptable BS or MS physical science degrees may include (but are not limited to) astronomy, chemistry, computer science, geology, metallurgy, meteorology, mining, oceanography, operations research, physical science, statistics, and systems engineering management. There are additional academic requirements for physical science degrees.

G. There may be additional academic considerations. All eligible candidates are encouraged to apply if they meet the basic requirements. For more information, call the Chief of Student Services at 661-277-9933/661-277-3000 or DSN at 527-9933/527-3000 or the Technical Director at 661-277-9776/661-277-3000, or DSN 527-9776/527-3000.

H. Pilot student selection will consist of a records board, flight evaluation, and an interview at Edwards Air Force Base. The records board evaluates each pilot applicant's package and awards it a numerical score. From the top scoring packages, a pilot student candidate pool is selected. These candidates will continue through the selection process by attending a formal interview and receiving a flight evaluation at the TPS. The formal interview will be conducted by a board approved by HQ AFMC/A3. Questions will center on the candidate's professional and technical skills, their desire to enter the experimental flight test career field, and on resolving issues in a

candidate's application. The interview panel will evaluate each candidate on their analytic and problem solving skills as well as their ability to communicate. The flight evaluation will quantify a candidate's ability to perform in and adapt to the experimental or developmental flight test environment. The evaluation will consist of three flights in TPS curriculum aircraft. A candidate will fly an unfamiliar aircraft, if available, while under the supervision of an instructor pilot. Each candidate will be graded on their basic flying skills, and their ability to safely adapt to new airplanes, situations and maneuvers. Scores from the candidate's flight evaluation and interview will be combined with their records board score. This final score will establish a ranking of all pilot candidates. The TPS Commandant will forward this ranking and his recommendations to AFMC/A3 for final selection and notification. The candidate's current unit will assume the candidate's temporary duty (TDY) costs associated with this selection process.

I. Flight test engineers and CSO/RPA-P students will be selected by AFMC/A3 solely from their records board ranking, unless the TPS Commandant deems it necessary to bring a selected pool of these candidates out for an interview. If this occurs, the TPS Commandant will forward a combined records board and interview ranking as well as his recommendations to HQ AFMC/A3 for final selection and notification.

J. Requests for waivers to the eligibility requirements listed in paragraphs 7.b. through 7.f. of this PSDM (and education requirements in Table 1 of the current AFI 99-107) will be submitted as part of the application package. HQ AFMC/A3 is the approval authority for eligibility requirement waivers. The request for waiver will be written in the form of a memorandum addressed to HQ AFMC/A3. The memorandum will state the eligibility requirement that requires a waiver and the rationale for requesting the waiver. Total flight time and aircraft commander time requirements will usually not be waived.

K. All candidates must arrive with current physiological training that will not expire before completion of TPS training (to include centrifuge training for all pilots). This training is funded by the losing unit.

L. All applicants must possess at least a secret clearance. Secret clearances must be no older than five years from the projected TPS graduation date.

8. All applications and waivers must arrive no later than 3 Jun 10 at HQ AFPC/DPAOT3, 550 C Street West, Suite 31, Randolph AFB TX 78150-4733. Applicants that require waivers, submit a duplicate copy of your application for processing the waivers to HQ AFMC/A3. Members who currently have an application on file must also update their applications and requests for waivers in accordance with the current AFI 99-107 no later than 3 Jun 10. TAFCS and GPA waivers will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Further detail on eligibility and waivers may be found in the current AFI 99-107. Applicants should advise supervisors and individuals sending in recommendations of the application/update deadlines. No more than three AF Forms 1712 (Special Flying Program Recommendation) are permitted.) All officers eligible in accordance with AFI 99-107 may apply, however, due to PCS policy and constraints, the board will only consider those applicants made available for reassignment who meet Time-on-Station (TOS) eligibility restrictions. Overseas long tour and CONUS applicants with less than 2 years TOS by class report date July 2011, will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis by HQ AFPC. Overseas

short tour applicants will be expected to serve the entire short tour. AFPC will determine assignment availability prior to the board. It is very important that the applications include all required information and arrive on time. Applications received after the cut-off date will not be considered by the selection board.

9. Contact HQ AFPC Pipeline and Trainer Assignments Branch (DPAOT3) at DSN 665-2330 for questions regarding TPS applications, eligibility criteria, and board procedures. Direct questions regarding the test mission or syllabus to USAF Test Pilot School, (USAFTPS/JI) Edwards AFB CA 93524-6485, DSN: 527-9933.

//Signed//

DAVID A. SLADE, Colonel, USAF
Director of Assignments